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GENERAL DEBATE: EXAMINATION OF THE WORLD SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO DRUG ABUSE, INCLUDING ILLICIT DEMAND, ILLICIT TRAFFICKING AND ILLICIT SUPPLY

Reports of the subsidiary bodies

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present document comprises two chapters. Chapter I covers matters which may require action by the Commission arising from a regional meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) and of the Ministerial-level Conference at the twenty-ninth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East (Ministerial-level Conference). Chapter II reproduces that chapter of each report of each meeting on the current trends in the illicit drug traffic in the region.

2. Four subsidiary bodies of the Commission met during 1992: HONLEA, Africa, held its fifth meeting at Abuja from 18 to 22 May 1992; HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, held its fifth meeting at Acapulco, Mexico, from 28 September to 2 October 1992; the seventeenth meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, was held at Bangkok from 23 to 27 November 1992; and the twenty-ninth session of the Sub-commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East including the Ministerial-level Conference at that session was convened at Tehran from 24 to 28 October 1992. HONLEA, Europe, is scheduled to hold its second meeting on 22-26 February 1993 and the relevant parts of its report will be before the Commission in document E/CN.7/1993/2/Add.1.

3. In an attempt to comply better with a series of General Assembly resolutions concerning limitation of documentation, beginning with the 1992 session of the Commission, reports of the above meetings were issued in the working launguage(s) of the respective subsidiary organs as conference room papers. Thus the participating States of the region will have available in the working languages a record of the meeting and of all the recommendations directed at Governments of the region. The Commission, on the other hand, will have before it in all official languages, an expose of those matters which may require action on its part or which should officially be brought to its attention as well as a summary of the illicit traffic situation in each region. The complete reports of the subsidiary bodies are available to the Commission in documents E/CN.7/1993/CRP.3-6 and 10.

I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

(i) Draft resolution for adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

4. The Fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Africa, recommends to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the adoption of the following draft resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Control of proceeds from illicit traffic in narcotic drugs

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Aware that money-laundering is a major element in the mobilization of capital generated by illicit drug traffic,

Mindful of the provisions of articles 3 and 5 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, 1/

Bearing in mind the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime, done at Strasbourg on 8 November 1990, 2/

Noting the recommendations on strengthening the efforts of the international community in the fight against money-laundering, formulated by the Financial Action Task Force, set up by the heads of State or Government of the Group of Seven major industrialized countries and the President of the Commission of the European Communities at the fifteenth annual economic summit, held in Paris in July 1989,

Noting also the model regulations concerning laundering offences connected with illicit drug trafficking and related offences, adopted by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission at its eleventh session, held at Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 10 to 13 March 1992,

Recalling the recommendations contained in the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session 3/ on measures to be taken against the effects of money derived from, used in or intended for use in illicit drug trafficking, illegal financial flows and illegal use of the banking system,

Taking into account Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 1 (XXXV) of 15 April 1992, on control of proceeds from illicit traffic in narcotic drugs,

Welcoming the international efforts already being made in this field to ensure coordination, consultation and collaboration, including the Council of the European Economic Community directive of 10 June 1991 on prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money-laundering,

Bearing in mind that the nefarious activities of drug traffickers undermine the economies of developing countries,

1. Reiterates its invitation to Member States to consider contributing confiscated property or proceeds to the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to assist the Programme in carrying out its mandate in the field of international drug abuse control, in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 1 (XXXV) of 15 April 1992;

2. Urges States to share equitably proceeds confiscated from convicted drug traffickers with the States of the convicted traffickers in order to enable drug law enforcement agencies in those States to be more proactive in battling the drug menace;

3. Encourages States making such contributions to the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to allow maximum flexibility to the Executive Director of the Programme by not tying those contributions to any particular projects or regions;

4. Invites the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-seventh session on follow-up to the present resolution.

1/ E/CONF.82/15 and Corr.2.

2/ European Treaty Series, No. 141 (Strasbourg, Council of Europe, 1990).

3/ General Assembly resolution S-17/2, annex, of 23 February 1990.

(ii) Resolutions of the Fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, brought to the attention of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

5. The Fifth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, adopted the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION 1

Request for workshops on drug demand reduction at future meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

The Fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa,

Recalling that the consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is increasing at an alarming rate in Africa, as mentioned in the report of the Fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held at Nairobi from 15 to 19 April 1991, 1/ and is creating enormous health and social problems,

Noting that the use of African States as transit points is causing the drug abuse problem to grow,

Recognizing that a balanced strategy covering all aspects of illicit drug traffic control and reduction of the demand for such drugs is needed to effectively combat drug problems as a whole,

Concerned about the need to safeguard the lives of African youth, who constitute a high risk group for drug consumption, so that they may contribute to the social and economic development of African States,

Mindful of the urgent need for preventive drug education for the general populace and the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug-dependent persons,

Recognizing that international forums are necessary vehicles for promoting the development of strategies to reduce global drug demand and the interchange of ideas,

Mindful of the financial implications of initiating an annual regional meeting on drug demand reduction in Africa,

1. Requests the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to increase funding for drug demand reduction programmes in Africa as part of a worldwide strategy to combat the drug menace;

2. Invites all States represented at meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, to establish national drug demand reduction programmes;

3. Requests the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to provide for the inclusion of drug demand reduction workshops as an integral part of future meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

1/ E/CN.7/1991/3, chap. II, sect. A.

RESOLUTION 2

Establishment of subregional drug law enforcement training centres

The Fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa,

Recalling that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1988/12 of 25 May 1988, requested the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat, in cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization, the Customs Cooperation Council, other interested organizations and Member States, to establish a long-term international drug law enforcement training strategy,

Recalling that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 1 (XXXIII) of 17 February 1989, and the Second Interregional Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, held at Vienna from 11 to 15 September 1989, in its resolution III of 15 September 1989, 1/ recommended that consideration be given to the creation of drug law enforcement training centres in the African region,

Mindful of the urgent need to promote drug law enforcement support and services at the regional and subregional levels in Africa,

Mindful that the identification and analysis of substances seized from the illicit drug traffic require technical personnel with training skills relevant to the particular needs of the region,

Recognizing the important advisory role that experienced and well-equipped drug law enforcement agencies and institutions in the African region could play in carrying out training activities throughout the region,

1. Recommends that the United Nations International Drug Control Programme should encourage the establishment, within specialized drug law enforcement agencies, of more subregional drug law enforcement training centres, in the spirit of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session; 2/

2. Recommends to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme that the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Academy at Jos, Nigeria, should serve as a subregional drug law enforcement training centre;

3. Recommends that the authorities of Côte d'Ivoire and France should expedite the establishment of a subregional drug law enforcement training centre at Abidjan,

4. Invites the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to develop and coordinate the above-mentioned subregional training activities;

5. Urges States to support such training activities by providing the necessary resources.

1/ E/CN.7/1990/2, chap. I, resolution III, recommendation 11.

2/ General Assembly resolution S-17/2, annex, of 23 February 1990.

(iii) Recommendations adopted by the Fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

6. The Fifth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, adopted the recommendations emanating from the various working groups that it had established. The recommendations are contained in paragraphs 22, 24, 27 and 31 of chapter III of the report of the Meeting (E/CN.7/1993/CRP.3). The recommendations, addressed mainly to Governments of the region, are brought to the attention of the Commission for information. Direct references to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) are limited to paragraphs 24(h), 27(d) and 31(f).

B. Fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin America and the Caribbean

(i) Recommendations adopted by the Fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

7. The Fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted the recommendations emanating from the various working groups that it had established to consider urgent matters and specific topics. One of the recommendations that it adopted upon the recommendation of the working group on money-laundering components and characteristics was addressed to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. That recommendation reads as follows:

"The Commission on Narcotic Drugs should authorize the Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, to convene a special working group to carry out studies and to formulate recommendations on money-laundering and to devise practical means of increasing the capacity of States for detecting, investigating and penalizing money-laundering."

8. The other recommendations, addressed mainly to Governments of the region, are contained in paragraphs 72, 75, 76, 78, 82, 83 and 84 of chapter V of the report (E/CN.7/1993/CRP.4). Direct references to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) are made in paragraphs 75(a) and 76(a).

(ii) Venue of the Sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

9. At the Third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Oranjestad, Aruba, from 24 to 28 September 1990, the representative of Cuba stated that his Government would be prepared to act as host to the Sixth Meeting. At the Fourth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from 8 to 12 September 1991, the representative of Cuba repeated the offer made by his Government to act as host to the Sixth Meeting. The Fourth Meeting took note of that offer and deferred its decision to the Fifth Meeting.

10. At the Fifth Meeting, the representative of the Dominican Republic informed the Meeting that his Government would also be willing to act as host to the Sixth Meeting.

11. In view of the two offers to host the Sixth Meeting and the possibility of others, the Fifth Meeting decided to refer the matter to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session and requested any Government that wished to act as host to the Sixth Meeting to communicate that fact through official channels to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP).

(iii) Title of the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

12. One speaker, referring to the fact that the States represented in the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, were not exclusively in that region, proposed that the title of the Meeting should be changed to the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Western Hemisphere.

13. The Meeting was informed of the origin of the present title, which had been confirmed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1988/15. Since, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/28, participation in the regional Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies was in principle based on membership in the respective regional economic commissions, the proposed title still did not cover all participants in the Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, such as the European members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); however, it was felt that the proposed title would more accurately describe the membership in the Meeting. The Meeting accordingly decided to request the Commission to consider the question at its thirty-sixth session.

C. Seventeenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Asia and the Pacific

14. The Seventeenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), Asia and the Pacific, adopted the recommendations drawn up by its working groups and contained in paragraphs 42, 45, 47, 53 and 55 of the report of the Meeting (E/CN.7/1993/CRP.6). The recommendations were addressed mainly to Governments of the region, and are brought to the attention of the Commission for information. Direct references to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) are limited to the recommendations in paragraphs 53 (f) and 55 (d) and (e), only the last of which calls for action on its part. Paragraph 74 also contains a request addressed to UNDCP.

D. Ministerial-level Conference at the Twenty-ninth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East

(i) Draft decision to be recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

15. The Ministerial-level Conference held at the twenty-ninth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East recommends to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the approval of the following draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

DRAFT DECISION

Membership of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

> "At its ... plenary meeting, on ... 1993, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the report of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East on its twenty-ninth session, including the Ministerial-level Conference held at that session, and the relevant part of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-sixth session, decided to approve the application by Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan for membership in the Subcommission."

(ii) Adoption of the Tehran Declaration

16. The attention of the Commission is drawn to the text of the Tehran Declaration adopted by the Ministerial-level Conference at the twenty-ninth session of the Subcommission . The Declaration incorporates a number of the recommendations formulated by working groups established by the Subcommission at its twenty-ninth session (see paragraphs 9-28 of the report of the Meeting (E/CN.7/1993/CRP.5)).

TEHRAN DECLARATION

We, the States participating in the Ministerial-level Conference at the Twenty-ninth Session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held at Tehran from 24 to 28 October 1992,

Deeply convinced of the importance of human dignity and of human aspirations to a decent life based on moral, humanitarian and spiritual values in a healthy and safe environment,

Gravely concerned at the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the world and, more particularly, in our region, which causes untold harm to innocent persons, especially youth, who are the most precious asset of any nation,

Recognizing the links between illicit trafficking and other related organized criminal activities,

Acutely aware of the destructive effects of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on economic, social, political and cultural structures and the serious threat it poses to the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations,

Convinced of the importance of ensuring the strict implementation of the international drug control treaties, as well as of developing and implementing regional and bilateral agreements,

Recognizing that the most effective response to the drug abuse problem lies in vigorous efforts aimed at all dimensions of the problem, namely illicit cultivation, production, trafficking and consumption, and including:

(a) Elimination of illicit cultivation of all narcotic plants;

(b) Suppression of the smuggling of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as prevention of the diversion from licit channels of precursors and essential chemicals frequently used in their illicit manufacture;

(c) Reduction of illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Firmly committed to the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session, a/ in which the Assembly proclaimed the period from 1991 to 2000 the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse in order to intensify international cooperation and to increase the efforts of States in that direction,

Have concluded and agreed as follows:

I. COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

1. We commit ourselves to becoming parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, b/ that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, c/ the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 d/ and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, e/ if we are not already parties thereto, and to taking all measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of their provisions.

2. We shall draw up national and regional strategies aimed at dealing comprehensively and simultaneously with all aspects of drug abuse, illicit cultivation and illicit drug production and trafficking. We envisage that the subregional and master-plan approaches recommended by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme will be used to the maximum extent possible.

3. After drawing up our national and regional strategies, we shall entrust the United Nations International Drug Control Programme with the promotion and coordination of a programme of drug control activities in which countries of the region could collaborate; once such a programme has been developed, we propose to approach the United Nations International Drug Control Programme with a view to establishing a regional bureau of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to ensure the smooth implementation and effective monitoring of the programme.

4. We commend and support efforts of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to ensure that donor countries play a substantial role in the implementation of a regional programme.

5. We intend to take steps to involve also international financial institutions such as the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Asian Development Bank in supporting such a programme, especially as regards the provision of alternative income-generating opportunities for farmers.

6. We shall promote close cooperation between the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and all international organizations concerned, particularly the United Nations Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in supply reduction; the Customs Cooperation Council and the International Criminal Police Organization in suppression of drug trafficking; and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization in demand reduction.

7. We intend to establish a fund under the aegis of the Organization of the Islamic Conference that will be entitled the "Islamic Fund to Combat Drug Abuse".

II. ELIMINATION OF ILLICIT CULTIVATION

8. We shall strive to eliminate all illicit cultivation of narcotic crops from the region. Countries where illicit cultivation still exists will take all necessary legislative and enforcement measures to that effect. At the same time, where illicit cultivation is part of a long-established tradition and farmers have been dependent on such cultivation for their basic livelihood, we shall make every effort to furnish them with alternative income-generating opportunities.

9. We recognize that programmes aimed at the elimination of illicit cultivation should incorporate strong components to promote community awareness of the dangers of drug abuse, as well as community participation in the design and implementation of such programmes.

10. We shall endeavour to ensure that the efforts being made in this direction by the authorities of the affected countries will be supplemented by all member States of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East that are in a position to help, as well as by bilateral and multilateral assistance agencies. We emphasize the importance of well-coordinated assistance and the adoption of approaches that ensure that assistance will not under any circumstances indirectly facilitate the persistence of illicit cultivation.

11. We welcome the decisive measures adopted by the Lebanese authorities to permanently eliminate the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, and we shall endeavour to assist the Lebanese Government in its efforts to carry out alternative development activities in the affected areas.

III. SUPPRESSION OF DRUG TRAFFICKING

12. We shall assess our training needs in order to improve our law enforcement investigation techniques, forensic skills and preparation of judicial cases, including cooperation with prosecutors.

13. We shall strive to ensure the rapid exchange of operational intelligence information and the development of systems of intelligence, especially as regards profiles, methods of concealment and routes used.

14. We shall, as a matter of urgency, undertake the feasibility studies required prior to the establishment of intelligence centres.

15. We shall take the necessary steps to ensure the posting of drug liaison officers under appropriate bilateral arrangements.

16. We shall take all possible measures to strengthen our capabilities to suppress drug trafficking, including the securing of up-to-date equipment, and we shall, where necessary, seek advice and assistance from interested countries and international organizations in a position to help.

IV. CONFISCATION

17. Subject to our respective constitutional principles and the basic concepts of our legal systems:

(a) We shall adopt the appropriate legislation and institutional arrangements to trace, identify and confiscate proceeds from drug trafficking and shall ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the 1988 Convention concerning money-laundering and the confiscation of assets;

(b) We shall give priority to establishing bilateral agreements in order to enable appropriate mutual legal assistance in the investigation of international money-laundering operations, including measures to enable laundered assets to be seized and confiscated;

(c) We shall encourage financial institutions and bodies to work closely together in establishing harmonized, effective programmes to identify suspicious transactions and to ensure that their staff are adequately trained for that purpose;

(d) We shall enact laws or adopt institutional arrangements to enable financial institutions to disclose to the appropriate authorities details of suspicious accounts or transactions involving possible proceeds of drug trafficking.

V. CONTROL OF PRECURSORS AND ESSENTIAL CHEMICALS

18. We shall undertake to ensure effective legislative, procedural and cooperative measures to implement article 12 of the 1988 Convention in order to prevent the diversion from licit channels of precursors and essential chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of heroin and other narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances.

19. We shall, whenever practicable, cooperate closely with States in which precursors and essential chemicals are manufactured in order to prevent the diversion of precursors and essential chemicals into illicit channels and, if necessary, shall consider establishing bilateral agreements or arrangements, where appropriate, in order to facilitate the exchange of information on, and the monitoring of, the movement of those substances.

20. We shall, whenever practicable, establish close cooperation with the chemical industry with a view to identifying suspicious transactions of precursors and essential chemicals and to preventing their diversion to the illicit traffic.

VI. DEMAND REDUCTION

21. We emphasize the need for all countries where a serious illicit demand problem exists to redouble their efforts to reduce such illicit demand. We commit ourselves to intensifying our own efforts to prevent and reduce the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

22. We shall keep drug abuse trends under careful review through the use of appropriate epidemiological and other survey techniques.

23. We shall elaborate our drug prevention programmes, ensuring that children in schools and other youth receive appropriate education on the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

24. We shall strive to improve facilities and methods for the effective treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug-dependent persons and shall share our experiences with each other, as well as with other countries and the international organizations concerned.

Notes

a/ General Assembly resolution S-17/2, annex, of 23 February 1990.
b/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 520, No. 7515.
c/ Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.
d/ Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.
e/ E/CONF.82/15 and Corr.2.

(iii) Venue of the thirtieth session of the Subcommission

17. The attention of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is drawn to the offer by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to host the Subcommission at its thirtieth session at Damascus.

II. CURRENT SITUATION AND RECENT TRENDS IN ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC

A. Africa

18. Several speakers reported on increased seizures of illicit drugs and the arrest and prosecution of a large number of persons of different nationalities for drug-related offences. They expressed great concern at the increased illicit traffic in and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the African region, which, in their view, constituted a threat to national security, economic stability and social order. Because of their geographical position in relation to producer and consumer countries, most African countries were vulnerable to transit traffic in illicit drugs, particularly heroin from south-eastern and south-western Asia moving through Africa to Europe and North America; increased quantities of cocaine were being transported through western and northern Africa to Europe. The spillover of transit traffic in illicit drugs, particularly heroin, had led to drug abuse problems in several African countries. Many speakers said that the abuse of heroin, psychotropic substances, particularly amphetamines, and cocaine had increased in their countries.

19. Several countries in the region continued to be adversely affected by illicit transit traffic in heroin from south-eastern and south-western Asia. Considerable quantities of heroin were being shipped to large African cities, mainly Lagos and Accra, for redistribution to illicit markets in Europe and North America. The airports at Addis Ababa and Nairobi were the main entry points, despite the successive efforts made by drug law enforcement agencies in those countries. Illicit traffic in heroin appeared to be gradually shifting from western to central Africa, the capitals of Cameroon, Chad, the Congo and Gabon being the prime targets. Abidjan, Banjul, Dakar, Kinshasa and Lomé were becoming important exit points, as was Cotonou, Benin. There was a marked decrease in the number of couriers with Nigerian passports who had been arrested for drug trafficking in producer, transit and consumer countries.

20. Cannabis, in various forms, continued to be one of the most abused drugs in Africa. Its abuse was reported to be on the rise in several countries. Morocco was a major source of cannabis, particularly cannabis destined for Western Europe and northern Africa. Algeria continued to take an active part in efforts to prevent cannabis resin from being smuggled overland from Morocco to France, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Tunisia. Whereas cannabis consumed in Africa was generally produced locally, it appeared that the supply was being supplemented by imports from Lebanon and Pakistan for redistribution to Europe. One major seizure involved 5.4 tonnes of cannabis resin that had been discovered in Dar es Salaam in a sea freight shipment from Karachi. Large seizures of cannabis from Lebanon had been made in Egypt and the Sudan. Cannabis of African origin had been seized in a number of countries in 1991. The oberver for ICPO/Interpol stated that cannabis of Nigerian and Ghanaian origin had been seized in Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

21. Illicit traffic in cannabis from Africa destined for Europe and North America was controlled at all stages by drug trafficking networks in which nationals from Ghana, Nigeria and Zaire participated. European organized crime syndicates that controlled the import and distribution of cannabis resin on the illicit market were also actively involved in illicit traffic in cannabis from countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The substantial resources available to such crime syndicates might be used to increase the illicit production of cannabis.

22. Countries in western and northern Africa were being used as transit States for the illicit traffic in cocaine from South America to Europe and North America. Seizures of cocaine en route to Spain had been recorded in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Morocco, because of its geographical proximity to Spain, was particularly affected by the transit traffic in cocaine, which involved European and South American criminal groups. Individual air couriers played an important role in the transportation of cocaine from Sao Paulo, Brazil, and La Paz to Accra and Lagos for distribution to Europe and North America. Cape Verde and cities such as Abidjan, Dakar and Libreville were secondary targets of that traffic. Illicit traffic in cocaine was also spreading to eastern and southern Africa; seizures had been made in South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda and Zimbabwe. One emerging drug trafficking network involved Peruvian, South African and European groups. Larger consignments of cocaine were being shipped in commercial cargo or in personal luggage.

23. The observer for CCC informed the Meeting that the smuggling of cocaine into, through and from western Africa had increased significantly in 1991. Austria, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Italy, Romania, Senegal, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America had reported the arrest of air passengers from western Africa with cocaine concealed in body cavities, shoes and false-bottom suitcases. Nigerian customs authorities seized 555 kilograms of cocaine in 1991, thereby accounting for a major share of the cocaine seizures in Africa.

24. Several speakers reported on the increased traffic in and abuse of psychotropic substances in their countries. The observer for CCC reported that northern Africa's share of the world total seizures of psychotropic substances had dropped from 38.2 per cent in 1989 to less than 1 per cent in 1991. Seizures of psychotropic substances in sub-Saharan Africa had remained stable in 1991: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Zimbabwe had accounted for the largest share of the seizures. Several speakers referred to the increased traffic in methaqualone between the Bombay area of India through countries in eastern Africa to South Africa. Significant seizures had been reported in Botswana, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania were being used for the transit of illicit consignments of methaqualone from India to South Africa. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania had organized and acted as host to a meeting at Arusha in January 1992 to deal with the issue of illicit traffic in methaqualone and related issues. Some speakers were of the view that, in order to effectively curtail or eliminate illicit traffic in methaqualone in eastern and southern Africa, it was imperative for South Africa to cooperate closely with the other countries of that subregion. They regretted the absence of representatives of that country from forums such as the HONLEA meetings.

25. Some speakers drew attention to the problems encountered as a result of the diversion of large quantities of psychotropic substances from the licit market, often by using forged import permits. Such diversion had considerably increased the availability of psychotropic substances on the illicit market. A related problem faced by several African States was the great variety of psychotropic substances that were being sold as medicine without prescription or medical supervision on the illicit market.

26. Most speakers commented on the trafficking routes and the modus operandi adopted by drug traffickers. Some heroin traffickers had reduced their dependence on air couriers by relying more on other means of trafficking, such as air freight. In some countries, large quantities of illicit drugs were being smuggled by air and sea, concealed in commercial consignments. Heroin couriers bound for Lagos had been intercepted at airports at Bangkok, Paris and Riyadh. Traffickers preferred to use professional couriers, carrying up to 30 kilograms of heroin, as opposed to teams of couriers carrying small amounts. That practice had resulted in the seizure of larger quantities of drugs but fewer couriers. It was noted that, because of the close monitoring of Nigerian couriers at entry and exit points in several transit States, Nigerian drug trafficking syndicates had recruited nationals of other African States and European nationals as couriers. Mention was made of the use of female couriers from North America.

27. Aircraft was the main conveyance used to smuggle heroin and most of the cocaine, in, through and out of Africa. Several speakers stated that African heroin and cocaine couriers were constantly changing their itineraries to take advantage of new air routes and weak and inadequate border controls. To avoid detection, African traffickers had rarely used direct routes to reach the source countries, such as through Lagos and Addis Ababa to reach New Delhi or Bangkok; instead, they had resorted to complex and constantly changing routes, for example, by using other airports along the coast of western Africa. It was common for traffickers returning to Nigeria from south-eastern and south-western Asia to disembark at various airports such as Abidjan, Accra, Dakar, Lomé or Niamey before proceeding to Nigeria by road.

28. There was general agreement that internal body concealment and false luggage compartments and linings continued to be among the most frequently used means of trafficking in illicit drugs, particularly heroin and cocaine. Airline passengers from different African countries, using body or luggage concealment, continued to be important couriers, particularly for heroin from south-eastern and south-western Asia. Several speakers drew attention to the use of falsified passports and travel documents by couriers, particularly by couriers from countries in western Africa. The Meeting was informed of a joint operation between the Kenyan Anti-Narcotics Unit and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) that had led to the seizure of 40 passports used by African couriers in the illicit traffic in heroin. Couriers operating between Lagos, Nairobi and Bangkok, for example, would depart from Lagos for Bangkok via Nairobi, each with two or more passports. When leaving Lagos, each courier would use a Nigerian passport, which would be left with a contact person at Nairobi. Each would then use a different passport to travel to and from Bangkok. The passports were purported to be issued by Gambian, Ghanaian, Liberian, Nigerian, Sierra Leonean and Zairian authorities. Once in Nairobi, the couriers would be handed their Nigerian passports by their contact persons and would return to Lagos. Thus, there would be no evidence that they had been to south-eastern Asia. The dismantling of the syndicate, which had been made

possible by the close cooperation of airline employees, had led to a significant reduction in the number of couriers from western Africa transiting through Nairobi.

29. Several speakers referred to the increasing involvement of organized crime syndicates in the illicit drug traffic in the region. Africans, working principally for Nigerian drug trafficking organizations, continued to play a prominent role in smuggling illicit drugs, particularly heroin, in, through and out of Africa. Moroccan nationals involved in smuggling heroin to Europe used the same criminal networks established for illicit traffic in cannabis.

30. Several speakers pointed to factors that had made their countries vulnerable to illicit traffic. They referred to the negative effects of illicit traffic and drug abuse on the economies of their countries. They stated that drug traffickers were using African countries as transit points because of their weak detection capability and lack of specially trained personnel. They emphasized the need for further specialized training in drug law enforcement techniques and in illicit drug identification.

31. Several speakers informed the Meeting of measures taken by their Governments to cope with the deteriorating situation regarding illicit traffic and drug abuse. Some reported that specialized drug law enforcement and other units had been created in their countries to deal with drug trafficking offences. They referred to the establishment of central units, comprised of personnel from different agencies mandated to adopt and coordinate policies and measures against illicit traffic and drug abuse. One speaker informed the Meeting that his Government had established a specialized body to investigate money-laundering offences. He referred to the work done by the Financial Action Task Force, set up by the heads of State or Government of the Group of Seven major industrialized countries and the President of the Commission of the European Communities at the fifteenth annual economic summit, held in Paris in July 1989; he said that African States should adopt a common strategy to deal with money-laundering, particularly with a view to enhancing the exchange of intelligence between them. Several speakers emphasized the paramount importance of regional and subregional cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking; they referred to the positive results that their Governments had achieved after having entered into bilateral and regional agreements or other forms of cooperation. Some speakers mentioned the important role of HONLEA meetings in strengthening cooperation between drug law enforcement agencies, in combating illicit drug traffic and in adopting effective countermeasures at the regional level.

B. Asia and the Pacific

32. Illicit drug traffic and abuse constituted a grave threat to social order, national security and economic development in several countries of the region, wich was one of the main producers of and markets for cannabis, illicit psychotropic substances (particularly amphetamine and methamphetamine) and opiates (particularly heroin). Record seizures of illicit drugs were made in several countries. The geographical position of some countries in relation to producers and consumers of illicit drugs made them particularly vulnerable to the transit traffic, which had contributed to an aggravation of the drug abuse problem in a number of countries. Several speakers reported the arrest and prosecution of a large number of persons of different nationalities for drug-related offences. Participants from States outside the region described the impact on their countries of illicit drug traffic from the Asian and Pacific region.

33. The world's principal opium-poppy-growing areas could be found in the "Golden Triangle" of South-East Asia and the "Golden Crescent" of South-West Asia. There were strong indications of increased opium availability in the region during 1991 and 1992 as compared with previous years. Major seizures were made in China, Hong Kong, India, Pakistan, Taiwan Province of China and Thailand. Some 1,443 kilograms of opium were seized in China during the first half of 1992. An unexpected development was the seizure by the authorities in India in October 1992 of a consignment of 242 kilograms of opium on its way to Sri Lanka. Seizures of opium had been declining over the previous years. The Republic of Korea was said to be facing a new problem of illicit traffic in opium smuggled from China; some 28 cases had been detected since 1990.

34. In South-West Asia, Afghanistan had emerged, after 14 years of armed conflict, as one of the main producers of opium and heroin. In Pakistan, the land area under poppy cultivation in the inaccessible and remote regions along the Afghan-Pakistan border was estimated at approximately 10,000 hectares, with a production of 181 tonnes of opium in 1991/92.

35. Production of opium in South-East Asia remained stable during 1992, particularly in the north-west of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the north-east of Myanmar and northern Thailand, and in northern Viet Nam. The Meeting was informed of increased illicit poppy cultivation, illicit processing of opium, and trafficking and abuse of opium and heroin in most of the opium-producing countries of South-East Asia.

36. Viet Nam was confronted with traditional opium growing in some northern highland provinces; poppy cultivation was estimated to cover about 10,000 hectares, with an estimated annual production of 15 tonnes of opium. The price of raw opium in the zone of production was about 180 United States dollars (US$) per kilogram, and from US$ 180 to US$ 200 per kilogram at Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City. During the first nine months of 1992 the authorities in Viet Nam had seized over 1 tonne of opium and 8.2 kilograms of heroin. An estimated 25,000 hectares of opium poppy were cultivated in eastern Myanmar during the 1991/92 season. Some 3,600 hectares were eradicated and 1,470 kilograms of opium seized during that period. Most of the cultivation was found close to the border with China, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand. In Thailand, the Thai authorities were able to eliminate approximately 2,400 hectares of the estimated 4,200 hectares of opium poppy cultivated in 1990/91. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, 366 kilograms of opium were seized in 1992. Opium production in Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand increased considerably between 1985 and 1991, to as much as 2,500 tonnes, according to some estimates. The commensurate increase in refining capacity resulted in an abundance of No. 4 heroin.

37. In South-West Asia large quantities of heroin were being smuggled, particularly through the border areas of Afghanistan and the tribal areas of Pakistan. Some 1,819 kilograms of heroin were seized in Pakistan during the first nine months of 1992. Heroin, mainly from South-West Asia, was reaching Europe via the Balkan route. In 1991, for instance, some 405 kilograms of heroin were seized in France and 502 kilograms in the United Kingdom. With regard to South-East Asian heroin, the United Kingdom seized 20.5 kilograms from Thailand and another 14 kilograms that had transited through Singapore in 1991.

38. The availability of heroin had increased worldwide, with wholesale prices decreasing in Europe and in the Asian and Pacific region. In the United States, prices remained stable during the first half of 1992 while purity increased, implying a high availability of heroin. Purity at the retail level in the United States during the first six months of 1992 averaged 36 per cent, compared with less than 10 per cent in the 1970s and 1980s. Heroin from South-East Asia was estimated to account for 58 per cent, and the supply from South-West Asia for 21 per cent, of the seizures in the United States during 1991. In Canada, 70 per cent of the seizures of opiates originated from South-West Asia and the balance from South-East Asia. Criminal organizations associated with major South-East and South-West Asian drug-trafficking operations continued to oversee the movement of heroin into Europe, the United States and Canada. In particular, ethnic Chinese, as well as criminal elements from Hong Kong, Taiwan Province and Thailand, dominated the shipment of South-East Asian heroin into the United States. At the same time, independently operating Nigerian traffickers used Nigerian, West African and Eastern European or United States nationals to bring heroin into Europe and the United States.

39. China, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Taiwan Province and Thailand were increasingly being used as major transit points for the illicit traffic in heroin from South-East Asia to Australia, Canada, United States and Europe, with smaller quantities destined for South-East Asian countries. Some 1,643 kilograms of heroin were seized in the first six months of 1992 in China. No. 4 heroin continued to be available throughout Australia in 1992, particularly in the eastern states, with Sydney being the main distribution centre. Substantial heroin seizures were reported between July and October 1992. There were 189 seizures amounting to 64.7 kilograms during the first nine months of 1992 in Australia, compared with 47 kilograms for 1991. Similarly, heroin seizures increased in India during the first nine months of 1992, amounting to 996 kilograms compared with 622 kilograms for 1991. Two major heroin-producing and -trafficking criminal organizations were dismantled at the beginning of 1992 in India. Sri Lanka had become an important transit route, mainly by sea from southern India, to Europe. Tamil terrorist groups were reported to be involved in the illicit traffic in heroin in Sri Lanka as a means of purchasing arms and funding the separatist movement. Bangladesh was also being used as a transit State for heroin from India and Myanmar. A new development was the seizure of No. 3 and No. 4 heroin in Nepal and the destruction of 42.5 hectares of poppy crops in that country in 1992.

40. The prices and purity of heroin varied considerably. During 1992 retail prices in Australia ranged fairly widely between 150 and 800 Australian dollars ($A) per gram, depending on purity. In Sri Lanka, the street value of a kilogram of heroin ranged from US$ 18,090 to US$ 22,039. The average purity of street heroin seized in that country was about 5 per cent, and heroin seized in bulk varied between 22 and 55 per cent in purity. The average price of heroin in Hanoi was about US$ 14.3 per gram.

41. The international illicit traffic in heroin from South-East Asia was dominated by traditional South-East Asian trafficking groups and individuals. In targeting Australia, the United States and Western Europe as major markets, they used Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan Province as transit points and financial markets to launder their illicit proceeds. Criminal groups organized by ethnic Chinese dominated the import and distribution of heroin in Australia. Major drug syndicates were organizing and financing their drug-trafficking operations from Hong Kong, while the consignments were increasingly being smuggled through safer transit routes to mask the trail from the source countries. In

recent years, increased use had been made of the overland route from countries bordering the southern Chinese provinces of Yunnan and Guangxi to Guandong and on to Hong Kong. This route accounted for most of the heroin found in the illicit market in Hong Kong. During the first eight months of 1992 the Hong Kong authorities seized 468 kilograms of heroin. Large consignments were also smuggled by sea to Hong Kong and Malaysia, mainly from Thailand. A consignment of 396 kilograms of No. 4 heroin, brought into Hong Kong by trawler from Thailand, was seized in June 1992.

42. Several speakers noted the increased vulnerability of their countries to transit traffic in opium and heroin from the region, which had led, in some cases, to an alarming increase in heroin abuse. Pakistan, in particular, was experiencing a serious drug abuse problem.

43. The efforts of Governments to eradicate illicit poppy cultivation and combat illicit traffic in heroin, and the difficulties they encountered, were drawn to the attention of the Meeting.

44. Cannabis, in various forms, was readily available throughout the region and continued to be one of the most abused drugs. Cannabis abuse was reported to be on the rise in several countries, particularly in some of the Pacific island States. Illicit traffic in cannabis from Thailand, Viet Nam and other Asian countries to Hong Kong increased during 1992, with two record seizures of 1.2 tonnes and 1.55 tonnes made in May and July 1992, respectively. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, 6 tonnes of cannabis were seized, and the yield of the cannabis crop destroyed was estimated at 11 tonnes. Cannabis was also a major drug of abuse in Japan, where 217 kilograms were seized and 1,504 offenders apprehended in 1991. Most of the cannabis herb seized in Japan was from Thailand and the Philippines, where seizures increased from 174 to 250 kilograms in 1991. In Australia, a total of 2,012 seizures in 1992 accounted for 6,700 kilograms of cannabis and its derivatives, representing a 300 per cent increase compared with 2,143 kilograms seized in 1991. Two major seizures in 1992 were 4 tonnes of Asian cannabis, destined for Sydney through Tonga, and another 2.2 tonnes of cannabis resin from Afghanistan seized off the coast of Western Australia. There were indications that illicit traffic in cannabis from Papua New Guinea to Australia was increasing. Prices of cannabis leaf in Australia ranged from $A 20 to $A 30 per gram.

45. Several speakers informed the Meeting of the measures taken by their Governments to address the problem of illicit traffic in and cultivation and abuse of cannabis. Extensive eradication programmes on cannabis plantations had been carried out in Australia, India, New Zealand, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and United States. As a result of these measures, cannabis cultivation tended to be on small plots in remote areas or dense forests, or grown alongside staple crops, thus making its detection and eradication more difficult.

46. Drug law enforcement activities in the United States and Latin America at the end of 1991 and during the first half of 1992 had a significant impact on the illicit traffic in cocaine. While the United States remained the major illicit market for cocaine, Western Europe and countries of the Asian and Pacific region, particularly Australia, Japan, New Zealand and Republic of Korea, were increasingly being targeted as new markets. During the first nine months of 1992, the Australian authorities seized a record 212.9 kilograms of cocaine, which represented a 300 per cent increase over the 73.9 kilograms seized in 1991. The retail price for cocaine remained stable in Australia in

1992, ranging from $A 170 to $A 450 per gram, with a purity of between 40 and 90 per cent. Most of the cocaine seized in Australia had been purchased directly from South America and routed through the United States. During 1991, 22.5 kilograms of cocaine were seized and 122 offenders arrested in Japan. South American cocaine cartels were attempting to develop close ties with the Japanese criminal organization known as the "Yakusa", as they targeted Japan as a new market.

47. Several speakers reported on the increased abuse of and traffic in psychotropic substances in their countries. Particular mention was made of the increased illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine and methamphetamine. Amphetamine was, after cannabis, the second most important drug of abuse in Australia, and was readily available throughout the country in 1992. In 1992, 91 seizures accounted for some 4.4 kilograms. Prices ranged from $A 60 to $A 100 per gram, depending on location. Outlaw motor-cycle gangs continued to control the illicit manufacture and distribution of amphetamines. Amphetamine and methamphetamine, smuggled mostly from Australia and the Netherlands, were popular with motor-cycle gangs in New Zealand. Amphetamine was also a popular drug of abuse in Thailand, particularly among manual workers and truck drivers. About 90 per cent of drug offences in Japan were related to trafficking in and abuse of methamphetamine.

48. Methamphetamine, usually in the form of "ice", a highly addictive crystal methamphetamine, was one of the most popular drugs of abuse in Japan, Philippines and Republic of Korea. Methamphetamine from China and Taiwan Province was reported to transit through Hong Kong to Japan, Philippines, Republic of Korea and United States. Seizures of methamphetamine from Hong Kong by the authorities in the Philippines increased by 11.7 per cent during the first nine months of 1992, accounting for 126 kilograms compared with 112.8 kilograms in 1991. A joint operation between the Japanese and Hong Kong police in 1991 had resulted in the seizure of 80 kilograms of ice. During 1992, liaison between and joint enquiries by the authorities in China and Hong Kong had resulted in the dismantling of a drug syndicate that had been using both places as a base of operation for the illicit manufacture of and traffic in ice.

49. Most of the methamphetamine seized in Japan had been manufactured in Taiwan Province. Traffic in methamphetamine was monopolized by the Japanese criminal organization Yakuza and its counterparts in the Republic of Korea and Taiwan Province. Following the adoption of stringent law enforcement measures in the Republic of Korea, the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine was curtailed and the supply rings were dismantled; the substance and its precursor, ephedrine, were currently being supplied principally from Taiwan Province and, to a lesser extent, from Japan and the United States.

50. In 1992, lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) became more available in Australia and New Zealand, thanks to sustained imports, mostly through the international mail system. A controlled delivery operation between drug law enforcement agencies in those two countries resulted in the dismantling of a drug-trafficking chain. The United States was the main source of LSD seized in New Zealand.

51. Several speakers referred to the abuse of prescription drugs, particularly by young people in their countries. The drugs were often obtained by burglary or the forging of prescriptions. Morphine sulphate tablets, prescribed for terminally ill cancer patients, were abused by intravenous drug users in New Zealand. Cough mixtures containing codeine were a popular drug of abuse in Brunei Darussalam.

52. Several speakers referred to measures taken in their countries to effectively monitor precursors and essential chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in line with the provisions of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. 1/ Some 40 tonnes of precursors were seized in China during the first six months of 1992. Some 1,400 litres of acetic anhydride were seized in India; substantial quantities were also seized in Pakistan. Acetic anhydride had been placed under control in Pakistan and India to prevent its diversion to illicit channels. The manufacture and import of ephedrine hydrochloride, the precursor for methamphetamine, had been banned in the Republic of Korea.

53. Several speakers noted the worsening of the illicit traffic in the Pacific island States. Abuse of cannabis was on the increase in several island States that were reportedly being used as a conduit for the transport of cocaine, crack, ice and heroin across the Pacific. Some speakers also referred to the potential use of the island States for money-laundering.

54. Most speakers commented on the trafficking routes and the modus operandi adopted by drug traffickers, which kept changing as traffickers adjusted to drug law enforcement initiatives. Heroin from the Golden Crescent was smuggled by land routes, often concealed in secret compartments of vehicles, or by the maritime route, as well as by couriers through international airports. Large quantities of illicit drugs were being smuggled in commercial consignments by air and sea. Internal body concealment and false luggage compartments and linings continued to be among the most frequently used means of trafficking, particularly for heroin. Airline passengers of various nationalities continued to play an important role as couriers, particularly for heroin from South-East and South-West Asia. There was a growing tendency for consignments of illicit drugs, notably cannabis, psychotropic substances and, to a lesser extent, heroin, to be smuggled concealed within containerized legitimate cargo.

55. Drug-trafficking criminal groups were becoming more professionally organized, difficult to penetrate and prone to use violence. The important role played by drug-trafficking syndicates and organized criminal organizations in the illicit drug traffic was highlighted by several speakers. The implications of corruption of officials by drug traffickers was emphasized.

56. Nigerian nationals continued to play an important role in the organization of illicit traffic in heroin. They had diversified the types of couriers used, with Eastern European nationals now being recruited in addition to Nigerians or other African nationals.

57. Several speakers pointed to the reasons for their vulnerability to illicit drug traffic. They considered that drug traffickers were using their countries as transit points because of their weak detection capability, limited financial resources and lack of adequate equipment and specialized personnel. They emphasized the need for further training in drug detection techniques and drug identification.

58. The availability of arms purchased through drug-trafficking operations and the presence of havens for laundering drug money were also highlighted.

59. Several speakers informed the Meeting of measures taken by their Governments to address the deteriorating illicit traffic in and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. More efficient, specialized and better-structured drug law enforcement agencies had been established in their countries to ensure coordination between the various agencies, particularly in sharing intelligence. To ensure the rapid exchange of information between drug law enforcement agencies responsible for operations against drug traffickers, it was urged that States should establish a coordination mechanism for international cooperation. Several speakers pointed to the increasing priority which their Governments were giving to addressing illicit demand through measures dealing with the prevention of drug abuse, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug abusers. Nationwide campaigns to raise public awareness of the dangers of illicit traffic and drug abuse had been initiated in several countries. The representative of the Republic of Korea pointed to the innovative measures taken by his Government, such as the launching of the "Goodwill Ambassadors Programme", in the context of the annual observence, on 26 June, of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. He also referred to measures taken to implement the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse.

60. Some speakers stressed the importance for States of the region to adopt legislation to enable the investigation of money-laundering offences and the confiscation of assets derived from illicit drug traffic. This would constitute an effective deterrent to illicit traffic in the region. One speaker indicated that in 1991 Canada had seized assets worth about 50 million Canadian dollars (Can$) and arrested many persons for money-laundering offences. Referring to the deposit of over Can$ 200 million in banks of one of the countries of the region by traffickers operating in Canada, he drew the attention of the Meeting to the urgent need for more stringent control by banks of the identity of persons making large cash deposits and the necessity to report suspicious transactions.

61. Several speakers informed the Meeting of laws and regulations adopted by their countries to comply with the provisions of the international drug control treaties, particularly the 1988 Convention. Drug trafficking had been included as a serious offence in the penal code of their countries, and offenders received stiffer sentences, including life imprisonment and capital punishment.

62. Several speakers emphasized the paramount importance of regional cooperation in combating illicit drug traffic, and referred to the positive results achieved through bilateral and regional agreements or other forms of cooperation. In particular, these included the undertaking of joint operations, such as controlled delivery, facilitating extradition of drug traffickers and the confiscation of assets in line with the laws and conditions of the respective countries. Working arrangements between the drug law enforcement agencies of countries members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) were being established so as to facilitate the rapid dissemination of operational information between member States. The important role played by the drug liaison officers posted in strategic capitals of the region in the fight against illicit traffic was highlighted. Speaking on behalf of the Foreign Anti-Narcotic Community, consisting of some 60 drug liaison officers based in Thailand, one speaker stressed the need for closer cooperation between the drug law enforcement agencies of the region and drug liaison officers.

63. Several speakers expressed the strong support of their Governments for the initiatives and arrangements undertaken by UNDCP in developing its subregional strategy in order to ensure closer cooperation, particularly between the countries bordering the Golden Triangle, including China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand. They also referred to the commitment of their Governments to the development and implementation of drug control master plans in cooperation with UNDCP.

C. Latin America and the Caribbean

64. Several speakers expressed the concern of their Governments at the escalation of drug abuse and illicit traffic in the region, which had continued to endanger the health of individuals and threaten the political institutions, national security and economic stability of several countries. Some speakers emphasized that their countries were vulnerable to transit traffic in illicit drugs, particularly cocaine, owing to their geographical situation in relation to producer and consumer countries. In that connection, the problems faced by the island States of the Caribbean and the Central American countries were mentioned. The spillover of transit traffic, particularly in cocaine, had aggravated the situation with regard to illicit trafficking and drug abuse in several countries. Several speakers reported increased seizures of cocaine, cannabis, and substances used for their illicit manufacture. Closer cooperation had also resulted in the confiscation of conveyances used for illicit trafficking, particularly private aircraft, and in the arrest and prosecution of a large number of persons for drug-related offences, which together had resulted in the dismantling of several drug trafficking organizations.

65. Several speakers reported increased seizures and availability of cocaine in their countries. Bolivia, Colombia and Peru remained the principal sources of cocaine. Peru was the largest supplier to the United States of coca paste and cocaine, most of which was processed in the Upper Huallaga valley. It was reported that coca-growing areas were expanding from the Upper Huallaga region to the Lower and Central Huallaga regions, and through the Ene, Convención, Quillabamba and Cajamarca valleys; the areas currently under cultivation totalled about 350,000 hectares, an increase of 40 per cent over the 1991 estimate of 250,000 hectares. Bolivia was the largest supplier of coca paste for the Colombian cartels, the bulk of which was transported by small, private aircraft operating from clandestine airports in the region of Beni, the main base of operations for the principal local drug traffickers.

66. While the United States remained the major illicit market for cocaine, traffickers had been seeking alternative markets and increasingly targeting other countries in the region, particularly Canada, as well as Western Europe and some countries in Asia and the Pacific, particularly Australia, Japan and the Republic of Korea. In this connection, the Meeting was informed that cocaine seizures in the United Kingdom had doubled in 1991 to over 1,000 kg, Colombia being the main source. In 1990 and 1991, other sources of cocaine shipped to the United Kingdom were Brazil, Jamaica, Nigeria and Peru.

67. Consignments of cocaine entered the eastern part of the United States mainly through the Caribbean and southern Florida and entered the western part of the country via Central America and Mexico. The trend was for cocaine to be transported from South America via aircraft to staging posts or transshipment areas in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. Maritime shipment

68. Foreign trafficking organizations had retained control over the illicit traffic in cocaine in the United States. Organized groups of Cubans resident in the United States, Dominicans, Jamaicans, Mexicans and African Americans were engaged in most of the street-level distribution in major cities in that country. Foreign organized criminal groups played a significant role in the illicit traffic in cocaine in Canada, in collusion with Montreal-based trafficking organizations. Almost every crime group in Canada was allegedly involved in the illicit traffic in cocaine.

69. Successful activities by drug law enforcement authorities in the United States and other countries in the region in the first six months of 1992 had had a significant impact on the illicit traffic in cocaine, leading to an increase in the price per kilogram and a decrease in the average purity in several major metropolitan areas in the United States. The price of cocaine per kilogram had increased from a range of US$ 11,000-40,000 in the first quarter of 1992 to a range of US$ 14,000-42,000 in the second quarter of the year.

70. Drug traffickers were constantly adjusting their operations in order to mitigate the effects of drug law enforcement measures. Thus, following a crackdown on the cocaine cartels by the Government of Colombia, cocaine traffickers shifted their operations to neighbouring countries. Chile was faced with increased traffic in coca paste and cocaine by land across its borders and by air, mainly from Bolivia and, to a lesser extent, Peru. About 550 kg of cocaine had been seized in the first eight months of 1992. Chile was also being used as a transit route for illicit consignments destined for countries in the northern hemisphere. Venezuela was being frequently used as part of a route leading from Brazil and Colombia and for the transshipment of cocaine destined for Europe and the United States, particularly on international flights, as well as a redistribution centre for precursors and essential chemicals intended for Colombian cocaine laboratories. Argentina was faced with the problem of illicit traffic in coca leaves and cocaine from Bolivia; the main entry points were at Villazon for illicit consignments from Potosi, at Oruro for illicit consignments from La Paz, and through Yacuiba and Bermejo for illicit consignments from Sucre, Tarija and Santa Cruz de la Sierra. Europe was the final destination of most of the illicit cocaine consignments, which were sent either directly or through Africa by sea or on commercial flights. It was reported that drug traffickers were cultivating and refining coca in remote jungles in western Brazil and that that country was being increasingly used for the transshipment of cocaine to Africa via commercial flights to Lagos and Casablanca, with the increased involvement of African, particularly Nigerian, traffickers. Ecuador was also being used as a conduit for consignments of cocaine and for the redistribution of chemical products used to process cocaine in Colombia and Peru. Seizures in Panama confirmed a trend whereby significant quantities of cocaine were being shipped to Europe and the United States concealed in containers of legitimate cargo. The airport at Santo Domingo was used as a transit point for couriers on their way to the United States and Europe, particularly Spain.

71. The representative of Mexico stated that measures taken in Mexico and Central American countries had led to the seizure in Mexico of over 29 tonnes of cocaine in the first nine months of 1992. He expressed the concern of his Government that, in spite of those measures, illicit traffic in cocaine continued to increase in those countries and in the region as a whole. He noted that, whereas 33 private aircraft carrying illicit drugs had been intercepted in the first nine months of 1991 (24 aircraft in Mexico and 9 in Central

America), 70 such aircraft had been intercepted in the same period in 1992 (33 in Mexico and 37 in Central America). He described that development as evidence of a new trend in which traffickers were using Central America as a transshipment and distribution centre for cocaine bound for the United States.

72. A representative of the United States informed the Meeting of the measures taken by the United States Customs Service, in cooperation with other countries in the region, to counter the use of private aircraft by drug traffickers to convey consignments of cocaine throughout the region. Drug traffickers had, until 1985, taken advantage of the mobility, speed and range of aircraft to avoid detection and apprehension and to establish major smuggling routes along the entire southern border of the United States. Currently, the interdiction capabilities along that border, as a result of the effective implementation of the National Air Interdiction Strategy, had led drug traffickers to abandon light aircraft as the favoured mode of transporting illicit drugs into the United States and to resort to other more complex modes of transportation.

73. The waters of the Caribbean island States, particularly the Bahamas, Cuba and Jamaica, were among the preferred sites for dropping cocaine consignments from the air to be picked up by fast boats and transported mainly to the southern coast of the United States. It was reported that, as a result of the high rate of interception of private aircraft used for illicit trafficking in cocaine, a new trend had developed whereby illicit cocaine consignments were being moved by air through the South American source countries and dropped off the coasts of Mexico or countries in Central America or the Caribbean, to be picked up by speedboats and subsequently transported by sea or by land through Mexico to the United States. Fishing vessels were frequently being used in such operations.

74. Several speakers referred to the fact that insurgent groups were increasingly acting in collusion with drug traffickers in Colombia, Guatemala and Peru. Insurgent groups controlled large portions of coca-producing areas and were allegedly providing protection for drug trafficking operations in exchange for weapons and financial support. The Peruvian Shining Path movement was directly involved with Colombian traffickers in the cocaine traffic, particularly through its operations in Huánuco, San Martín and Ucayali. Drug trafficking was the most important source of finance for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) as well as for subversive groups of the Tupac-Amaro revolutionary movement in Uruguay and of the Shining Path movement in Peru.

75. Organized criminal drug networks continued to play an important role in the illicit cocaine traffic in several countries of the region, often in collusion with the Colombian cartels. Several speakers expressed their concern regarding the increased operations of Italian criminal organizations (the Mafia and the Camorra) in Latin America; reference was made to the involvement of Italian criminal organizations in the illicit traffic in cocaine in Argentina. The Meeting was informed of the involvement of Argentine and Chilean drug trafficking organizations with other organized criminal groups in distributing illicit drugs, primarily to Europe. Mention was made of the dismantling of a drug trafficking network in Ecuador with links to the Cali cartel and Mexican traffickers, which had led to the confiscation of US$ 2 million invested in Ecuador and in Germany and deposited in part in the United States. Authorities in Venezuela had arrested 21 persons associated with the Cali cartel and had confiscated 7,000 kg of cocaine. Several speakers agreed that a thorough diagram should be made of the links (particularly the mafia-like links) between organized crime and drug trafficking networks; it was felt that such a diagram might provide a better understanding of the managerial role played by interna-

tional organized criminal drug networks in the illicit traffic in cocaine and of ways to enhance cooperation between drug law enforcement agencies of the region in combating such networks.

76. The Meeting was informed of action taken by Governments to counter illicit cocaine trafficking. In the first four months of 1992, the Peruvian authorities had destroyed several clandestine airstrips, 163 soaking pools, 1 tonne of coca paste, and 300 tonnes of precursors and essential chemicals. In the first eight months of 1992, Colombian authorities had seized 37 tonnes of cocaine, 20 kg of heroin, 107 tonnes of cannabis and 5 tonnes of coca base; in addition, some 12,000 hectares of opium poppy had been eradicated, about 70 clandestine laboratories had been destroyed, about 4,000 drug trafficking offenders had been arrested and some 20 aircraft had been confiscated. In the first seven months of 1992, the authorities in Mexico had confiscated some 200 tonnes of cannabis, 53 kg of heroin, about 22 tonnes of cocaine, over 1,600 vehicles, 13 aircraft and more than 2,000 weapons; furthermore, 19,000 persons had been arrested and over 8,000 hectares of opium poppy had been eradicated. Ecuadorian authorities had seized some 3,200 kg of cocaine at Carchi in 1992.

77. Several speakers expressed concern at the increase in the illicit cultivation of opium poppy and in traffic in heroin. Heroin was readily available in several countries of the region, particularly Canada and the United States. Its worldwide availability and decreasing wholesale prices, together with the rising demand for heroin of high purity in the United States, had contributed to the escalating volume of heroin traffic moving mainly through Canada and Mexico en route to the United States, where prices had remained stable in mid-1992 after a slight decline in 1991. Its retail-level purity had increased significantly in the United States in recent years, averaging over 36 per cent, compared with less than 10 per cent in the 1970s and early 1980s. The relatively stable prices, combined with a continuing rise in purity at the street level, indicated that heroin availability remained high and was increasing.

78. South-east and south-west Asia, Mexico and, to a lesser extent, Colombia and Guatemala were the main sources of heroin for the illicit market in the United States. Since 1985, the situation in the United States had been marked by a predominance of heroin of south-east Asian origin and a decline in the availability of heroin from south-west Asia. In 1991, heroin of south-east Asian origin had accounted for 58 per cent of the heroin in the United States (compared with 14 per cent in 1985); Mexican and south-west Asian heroin had each accounted for 21 per cent of the samples analysed in 1991. Illicit traffic in heroin, principally from south-east Asia, had continued unabated in Canada in 1991: a record seizure of 100 kg of heroin had been made in the country and 50 kg of heroin destined for Canada had been intercepted in transit countries. Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver remained the centres of illicit trafficking and drug abuse in Canada.

79. Wholesale and mid-level distribution of and trafficking in heroin in the United States were dominated by ethnic groups with ties to the source countries. Major south-east Asian drug trafficking organizations, composed of ethnic Chinese and Chinese-Thai criminals, continued to oversee the movement of south-east Asian heroin into the United States. Nigerian nationals, operating independently, used citizens of their own country, other western African countries and, increasingly, Eastern European countries or the United States, as heroin couriers to send heroin to the United States. Heroin found principally in south-western and western United States was being smuggled overland

from Guatemala and Mexico. It was reported that there was increased evidence of the involvement of Colombian cocaine trafficking organizations in the illicit traffic in heroin to and within the United States. South-west Asian heroin traffickers were using established distribution networks to move heroin principally to distributors on the eastern coast or the Middle West of the United States.

80. Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico continued to be affected by the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy despite action taken by the Governments of those countries to eradicate such cultivation. Authorities in Mexico, the main producer of opium poppy in the region, had eradicated 9,000 hectares of it in the first nine months of 1992. The increased import of large quantities of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of heroin in the southern provinces of Colombia was an indication that Colombian drug traffickers, in collusion with insurgent groups, had diversified their operations. The manufacture of heroin in clandestine laboratories had also become a source of funds for Colombian insurgent groups.

81. The involvement of the army in combating illicit traffic in coca-producing areas controlled by insurgent groups had contributed to the destruction of large quantities of coca bush and the seizure of coca paste and cocaine, as well as substances used in their illicit manufacture. It was reported that Peruvian authorities had also succeeded in arresting the main organizers of drug trafficking organizations and insurgent groups linked to drug trafficking.

82. Cannabis, in various forms, continued to be one of the most commonly abused drugs in the countries of the region. The Meeting was informed that according to the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse in the United States, abuse of cannabis had been declining steadily since 1979, when there were approximately 22.5 million abusers compared with 9.7 million in 1991. The abuse of cannabis was also reported to be on the decline in Canada. Mexico was the main source of cannabis entering the United States; Mexican cannabis accounted for about 42 per cent of the cannabis found on the illicit market in that country. Colombia, Guatemala and Jamaica were also important sources of cannabis destined for Canada and the United States. Jamaica was an important source of cannabis destined for the United Kingdom, where 755 kg of Jamaican origin had been seized in 1991. Domestically cultivated cannabis represented an increasing share of the United States illicit market: 22 per cent in 1992. Over 80 tonnes of cannabis had been seized in Canada and 103 tonnes of cannabis resin destined for Canada had been intercepted in other countries; the illicit consignments had been transported by sea on motherships and/or in containers.

83. Several representatives informed the Meeting of measures taken by their Governments to deal with the illicit cultivation of and traffic in cannabis. The large-scale destruction of cannabis plants was reported by the representatives of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, United States and Venezuela. In the United States, the cannabis eradication and suppression programme of the Drug Enforcement Administration had resulted in the eradication of 5.2 million cultivated cannabis plants and the confiscation of assets worth US$ 52.8 million in 1991.

84. As a result of effective law enforcement operations against illicit cannabis cultivation, such cultivation had tended to be more carefully concealed and protected in some countries than before. It often took place in remote areas or in dense forest or alongside staple crops, thus making its detection and eradication difficult. In Venezuela, large cannabis plantations in the

85. With regard to the abuse of and traffic in psychotropic substances, it was reported that methamphetamine ("ice") was available in several ethnic Asian communities on the western coast of Canada and the United States (and in the State of Hawaii). Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) distribution was tightly controlled by a few highly sophisticated, California-based organizations. Seizures of LSD from the United States had been made in Canada and Uruguay.

86. Several speakers referred to measures adopted by their Governments to monitor precursors and essential chemicals used in illicit drug manufacture. Precursors imported into or manufactured in Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Peru were often diverted for the illicit manufacture of cocaine in Bolivia and Peru. Legislation had been adopted in those countries to regulate the production and marketing of precursors, in line with the provisions of article 12 of the 1988 Convention. Specific arrangements had also been made for the exchange of information with importing countries to facilitate the monitoring of those substances.

87. Several speakers referred to the dismantling of clandestine laboratories used for the illicit manufacture of cocaine or heroin, particularly in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Guatemala. In the United States, the number of clandestine laboratories seized had declined significantly in the first six months of 1992 following the enactment of federal and state legislation for the control of substances used in illicit drug manufacture.

88. Some speakers mentioned linkages between illicit drug traffic and the arms trade; in certain countries, such linkages involved dissident movements. The availability of arms had greatly enhanced the capability of drug trafficking organizations to counter the efforts of drug law enforcement agencies to apprehend them. Mention was made of the large number of drug law enforcement personnel who had lost their lives while confronting drug traffickers, particularly in Colombia and Peru.

89. Several speakers described the economic factors that made their countries vulnerable to illicit traffic. The view was expressed that drug traffickers were using some countries of the region as transit points because of the weak detection capability and lack of specially trained personnel in those countries. The need for technical assistance and for further training in drug detection techniques and drug identification was emphasized.

90. Several speakers informed the Meeting of measures taken by their Governments to cope with the deteriorating situation regarding illicit traffic and drug abuse. The Meeting was informed of the establishment of the Conference of the Operational Forces of the Southern Cone to promote closer cooperation between the drug law enforcement agencies of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay in the exchange of information and in the undertaking of joint operations. Some speakers reported on the reorganization of drug law enforcement agencies and the establishment of central coordinating units to coordinate the exchange of information.

91. Several Governments in the region had adopted new, comprehensive approaches to deal with the demand for illicit drugs through programmes for the prevention of drug abuse and the treatment, rehabilitation and social integration of drug abusers that complemented programmes for the suppression of illicit drug traffic. Some participants indicated that nationwide campaigns had been undertaken to raise public awareness of the dangers of illicit drug traffic and abuse.

92. Several speakers referred to measures taken by their Governments to bring their national legislation in line with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (E/CONF.82/15 and Corr.1), for example, more stringent penal sanctions for drug trafficking offences, penalties for the diversion of precursors, the recognition of new investigative powers such as the use and protection of undercover agents and informants, controlled delivery and mutual legal assistance. Several speakers referred to recent legislation adopted in their countries to make money-laundering a criminal offence and to measures to facilitate the investigation of money-laundering. Others referred to investigations into money-laundering operations that had resulted in the tracing and confiscation of large sums of money and property derived from illicit traffic. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police had seized, or referred to other agencies for confiscation or civil process, Can$ 47.1 million in cash and various assets in 1991. Other speakers referred to problems their Governments had recently encountered in investigating money-laundering offences in their countries.

93. Several speakers emphasized the paramount importance of intensified regional cooperation in combating illicit trafficking, especially joint action to counter transborder illicit drug traffic. In this connection, the key role played by drug law enforcement liaison officers posted in strategic capitals of the region was highlighted. In particular, it was noted that the exchange of information through the network of liaison officers would contribute to the fight against drug trafficking syndicates aligned with organized crime, particularly the Mafia. Some speakers referred to the important role of HONLEA meetings in strengthening cooperation between drug law enforcement agencies, in combating illicit drug traffic and in adopting effective countermeasures. Several speakers expressed the view that cooperation in international drug control should be based on principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-intervention in internal affairs.

94. Many speakers stressed that it was the responsibility of all consumer countries to adopt measures to reduce the demand for illicit drugs.

D. Near and Middle East

95. Illicit crop cultivation and illicit trafficking in and abuse of drugs, particularly opium and heroin, continued to pose serious problems in the region. The speakers expressed the grave concern of their Governments at the deteriorating drug control situation, which constituted a major threat to national security, economic stability and public health. Some speakers described their countries as vulnerable to transit traffic in illicit drugs because of their geographical positions in relation to producer and consumer countries. The spillover of transit traffic in illicit drugs, particularly heroin, had aggravated the drug abuse problem in several countries.

96. The region covered by the Subcommission was particularly affected by illicit cultivation of the opium poppy and the production of heroin, which posed a threat not only to countries in the region but to the whole world. Large seizures were reported by the representatives of India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and Turkey. One observer referred to the effects that the heroin and opium smuggled from the region, through the Balkan route, were having on countries in Western Europe.

97. Heroin was readily available in most countries in the region and was being smuggled in large volumes, particularly through the border areas of Afghanistan and the tribal areas of Pakistan. Heroin abuse was rising at alarming rates in many parts of the region and elsewhere in the world. Afghanistan, following 14 years of war, had become one of the largest producers of opium in the world. It was emphasized that reconstruction efforts in that country should take into consideration measures to counteract illicit drug production.

98. Several countries in the region had taken new initiatives to effectively monitor precursors and essential chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. For example, acetic anhydride had been placed under control in Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Turkey.

99. Most speakers referred to the modus operandi of drug traffickers and gave details on some of the trafficking routes currently being used. Some emphasized the links between (a) the illicit drug traffic and (b) terrorism and the illegal traffic in firearms. Drug trafficking syndicates and organized criminal networks played a major role in the illicit drug traffic in the region and from the region to other parts of the world. Drug traffickers continued to exploit weaknesses in legislative and administrative infrastructure. It was noted that, because of the transnational character of illicit drug production and trafficking, programmes to counter the drug menace should be pursued and harmonized at the subregional and regional levels and the joint monitoring of such activities by collaborating countries should be encouraged.

100. The border between India and Pakistan continued to be extremely vulnerable to illicit traffic in opiates and cannabis resin. The eastern borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran were threatened by the illicit traffic in opium, heroin and morphine from two neighbouring countries that had become centres for illicit poppy cultivation and opiate production, as well as of cannabis, thus ensuring a sustained flow of illicit narcotic drugs through the Islamic Republic of Iran to other countries, particularly to the west. Despite the large seizures of opium and heroin made in the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1991 and 1992, no illicit poppy cultivation or heroin laboratory had been discovered in that country, a fact that was attributed to the strict measures taken by the Government.

101. Several speakers mentioned some of the factors that made their countries vulnerable to illicit traffic. They stated that their countries suffered from insufficient detection capability and a lack of specially trained law enforcement personnel; as a result, drug traffickers were using their countries as transit points. The need for further training in drug detection techniques and drug identification was emphasized.

102. Several speakers highlighted measures taken by their Governments to deal with the deteriorating situation regarding illicit traffic in and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. They described new comprehensive approaches that had been adopted to deal with the demand for illicit drugs, including approaches to drug abuse prevention and to the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug abusers. Some stated that nationwide campaigns to raise public awareness of the dangers of drug abuse had produced positive results.

103. In some countries, specialized drug law enforcement and other units had been created to deal with drug offences. In many countries, legislation had been adopted to provide for harsher sanctions against drug trafficking offences.

104. Adherence to the international drug control treaties by States in the region covered by the Subcommission was described as a prerequisite for the effective functioning of the international drug control system. Several Governments in the region had enacted new legislation to enable them to implement the provisions of those treaties. Another prerequisite was close cross-border and regional cooperation to combat illicit drug trafficking; such cooperation included, in particular, the exchange of intelligence.

105. There was general agreement that any relaxation of drug control measures, particularly in the light of developments in certain European countries relating to the decriminalization or legalization of drugs under international control, would have a negative impact on worldwide drug control efforts.